



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

| | | |
|--|-----------|---|
| (51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : A61C 8/00 | A1 | (11) International Publication Number: WO 00/27300 (43) International Publication Date: 18 May 2000 (18.05.00) |
| <p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE99/02036</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 9 November 1999 (09.11.99)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 9803849-0 11 November 1998 (11.11.98) SE</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NOBEL BIO-CARE AB (publ) [SE/SE]; Box 5190, S-402 26 Göteborg (SE).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ENGMAN, Fredrik [SE/SE]; Häggvägen 19, S-435 37 Mölnlycke (SE). JÖRNEUS, Lars [SE/SE]; Riabergsvägen 7B, S-430 30 Frillesås (SE).</p> <p>(74) Agent: OLSSON, Gunnar; Nobel Biocare AB (publ), Box 5190, S-402 26 Göteborg (SE).</p> | | <p>(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p> |
| <p>(54) Title: THREADED IMPLANT, AND ARRANGEMENT AND METHOD FOR SUCH AN IMPLANT</p> | | |
| <p>(57) Abstract</p> | | |
| <p>A threaded implant (1) is intended to be screwed into jawbone and, in the screwed-in position, to support a spacer element (5). The implant has a socket arrangement which can cooperate with a tool, for screwing it in, and with the spacer element for securing the latter in the applied position. The arrangement comprises two geometrically separate sockets, of which the first socket can cooperate with the tool and the second socket permits rotational locking of the spacer element (5).</p> <div data-bbox="974 1155 1461 1953"> </div> | | |

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

| | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|--|----|--|----|--------------------------|
| AL | Albania | ES | Spain | LS | Lesotho | SI | Slovenia |
| AM | Armenia | FI | Finland | LT | Lithuania | SK | Slovakia |
| AT | Austria | FR | France | LU | Luxembourg | SN | Senegal |
| AU | Australia | GA | Gabon | LV | Latvia | SZ | Swaziland |
| AZ | Azerbaijan | GB | United Kingdom | MC | Monaco | TD | Chad |
| BA | Bosnia and Herzegovina | GE | Georgia | MD | Republic of Moldova | TG | Togo |
| BB | Barbados | GH | Ghana | MG | Madagascar | TJ | Tajikistan |
| BE | Belgium | GN | Guinea | MK | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | TM | Turkmenistan |
| BF | Burkina Faso | GR | Greece | ML | Mali | TR | Turkey |
| BG | Bulgaria | HU | Hungary | MN | Mongolia | TT | Trinidad and Tobago |
| BJ | Benin | IE | Ireland | MR | Mauritania | UA | Ukraine |
| BR | Brazil | IL | Israel | MW | Malawi | UG | Uganda |
| BY | Belarus | IS | Iceland | MX | Mexico | US | United States of America |
| CA | Canada | IT | Italy | NE | Niger | UZ | Uzbekistan |
| CF | Central African Republic | JP | Japan | NL | Netherlands | VN | Viet Nam |
| CG | Congo | KE | Kenya | NO | Norway | YU | Yugoslavia |
| CH | Switzerland | KG | Kyrgyzstan | NZ | New Zealand | ZW | Zimbabwe |
| CI | Côte d'Ivoire | KP | Democratic People's Republic of Korea | PL | Poland | | |
| CM | Cameroon | KR | Republic of Korea | PT | Portugal | | |
| CN | China | KZ | Kazakstan | RO | Romania | | |
| CU | Cuba | LC | Saint Lucia | RU | Russian Federation | | |
| CZ | Czech Republic | LI | Liechtenstein | SD | Sudan | | |
| DE | Germany | LK | Sri Lanka | SE | Sweden | | |
| DK | Denmark | LR | Liberia | SG | Singapore | | |
| EE | Estonia | | | | | | |

TITLE

Threaded implant, and arrangement and method for such
5 an implant.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a threaded implant
10 intended to be screwed into bone, preferably into
jawbone. In the screwed-in position, the implant is
intended to support at least one spacer element. The
implant has a socket arrangement which can cooperate on
the one hand with a tool, for screwing it in, and on
15 the other hand with the respective spacer element for
screwing the latter on securely when the implant is in
position. The invention also relates to an arrangement
for a threaded implant of the said type and to a method
for anchoring the implant in bone, preferably jawbone.

20

PRIOR ART

Implants of the type in question can be provided with a
part which projects upwards from the upper contact
25 surface of the implant which is designed with a wrench
grip which can be used when the implant is being
screwed into the hole made, for example, in jawbone.
The upwardly projecting part can also receive and fix
in position (inter alia in the direction of rotation)
30 the spacer element and, if appropriate, any attachments
on the latter. When the implant is being screwed in,
relatively high torsion forces (for example torsion
forces of the order of 50 - 100 Newton centimetres) may
be needed, which in itself requires special measures to
35 be taken in respect of the implant arrangement. When
the implant is being screwed in or inserted, so-called
fixture holders are often used which constitute a form
of intermediate element which is screwed securely into
or onto the implant, which, by virtue of this, can

obtain a temporary tool attachment. An existing wrench grip according to the above, which is relatively low, does not then need to be used at least at high insertion forces and in positions where it is difficult to access and use the whole height of the low wrench grip. The wrench grip does not need to be used as tool attachment, and because the fixture holder is screwed securely into or onto the implant, a stable locking is obtained between the fixture holder and the wrench grip. The use of a fixture holder or intermediate element also has the advantage that the implant in question can be supported, that is to say secured, by the tightening machine used for inserting the implant, and this, together with an often more reliable and simpler tightening function, means that the technique using the fixture holder has hitherto predominated.

General reference is made to the PCT specifications WO 98/12982 and 98/31296.

Reference is also made to US Patent 4 960 381 which relates to a completely different type of implant, namely a type which does not have the part projecting upwards from the contact surface for the spacer attachment according to the above, and where instead the tool and spacer element sockets have been combined in a common position inside the implant.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

TECHNICAL PROBLEM

In order to achieve high torque transmission forces despite the small dimensions which exist in connection with implants, it is advantageous if the orientation of the drive surfaces on the tool socket and corresponding acting surfaces on the tool are arranged such that they extend as radially as possible. Thus, for example, with two cooperating polygons, see the case above with a wrench grip on an upwardly projecting part, there is

always a wedging effect between the tool and the socket, which means that the stability is limited, especially in the tool socket if, as in this case, for reasons of biocompatibility, it is not possible to use
5 hard materials in the implant, that is to say in the tool socket. The invention aims to solve these problems among others.

There are also disadvantages with using the above-
10 mentioned fixture holders. Among other things, extra torque is needed for mounting and dismantling the respective fixture holder onto or from the respective implant. In addition, the torque which can be transmitted between fixture/implant and fixture holder
15 is limited. Exceeding the admissible torque can lead to great difficulties when removing the fixture holder, which means that the fixture has to be reversed. Another defect which can arise is that the hexagon of the fixture is so greatly deformed that attachment of
20 the spacer is made difficult or impossible, which means that the insertion and healing procedure has to be repeated. The invention also solves this set of problems by taking the technique in new directions.

25 It is also essential to be able to use conventional and well proven spacer elements. It is of great importance that such spacer elements can be used for reasons of compatibility and that they are well proven. The invention also solves this problem.

30 The tool socket must be able to withstand high torques in accordance with the above, and at the same time it is advantageous that the tool and the tool socket are designed so that a support function is made possible.
35 The invention solves this problem too.

Using an internal fixture socket as spacer attachment (cf. the US patent specification mentioned above) can cause problems in obtaining sufficient stability of the

- 4 -

spacer element. A spacer element in this context must have a projecting part which cooperates with the recess in the fixture. To lock the spacer in place with a screw connection, this projecting part must be made hollow so that a screw can pass through. This greatly reduces the stability. If the spacers are intended to cooperate with the internal tool socket, the spacers become very expensive and difficult to manufacture. It is also difficult or quite impossible to manufacture, at a reasonable cost, a socket of this kind when the aim is to ensure that the outer surface of the spacer element will form a smooth transition from the implant. The invention solves this problem too, with the realization that the spacer socket as such does not have any requirements, or only minimum requirements, in respect of torque transmission and instead it essentially constitutes a positioning instrument.

When internal fixture sockets are used as spacer attachments, there is also the problem of achieving sufficient stability of the spacer elements. The invention solves this problem too.

SOLUTION

The feature which can principally be regarded as characterizing a threaded implant in accordance with what has been stated above is that the socket arrangement comprises two geometrically separate sockets, of which the first socket can cooperate with the tool and the second socket permits rotational locking of the spacer element against the contact surface of the implant.

In further developments of the inventive concept, the second socket comprises a conventional socket of polygonal character, for example in the form of a hexagon socket. The latter can thus be assigned a spacer element in accordance with the previously used

- 5 -

technique, and known and well proven spacer element structures can be used. The first socket can be arranged directly in the implant and thus not via the above-discussed fixture holders. The first socket can also be made internal and the second socket external. The second socket is arranged on a part projecting upwards from the contact surface of the implant, and the first socket is located essentially in the said projecting part, that is to say essentially above the contact surface of the implant. In an alternative embodiment, the first socket can be lowered inside the implant. The first socket can moreover comprise a number, preferably 4 - 6, of drive surfaces which can be acted on by the tool and which are arranged with salient or essentially radial extents. In further embodiments, the first socket can be arranged to accept a relatively high torque transmission force from the tool and at the same time have small dimensions in relation to the size of the implant and the internal socket. The first socket can also be arranged to permit a bearing function by means of the tool while it is being moved and used, for example a bearing function of the type which is described in the said WO 98/12982.

An arrangement according to the invention is characterized essentially in that the implant is provided with a first socket which can be assigned to the tool and a second socket geometrically separate from the first socket for receiving and rotationally locking the spacer element.

In further developments of the arrangement, it is proposed that a relatively high force applied by means of the tool on the first socket is prevented from mechanically affecting the second socket. The first socket can be arranged to meet a relatively high force application which can occur when the implant is screwed into the bone/jawbone despite small dimensions of the implant on account of the fact that the socket is

internal. The second socket can be arranged to meet a relatively small force application which arises when the spacer element is applied, but can nevertheless operate with a precise positioning function.

5

A method according to the invention is characterized essentially in that the screwing-in is effected by means of a tool which is arranged on a tool socket provided in the implant and in that the spacer element
10 is applied to a spacer element socket provided in the implant and separate from the tool socket.

Further developments of the method are characterized by the fact that a tool of star screwdriver type is
15 arranged on an internal tool socket where, during screwing-in, the wing-shaped parts of the tool are pressed against essentially radially extending drive surfaces of the tool socket. The method also entails that conventional and well proven types of spacer
20 elements can be applied to the spacer sockets of the implant in question.

ADVANTAGES

25 By means of what has been described above, it is no longer necessary to integrate the tool and spacer element sockets. These can each be made optimal and by means of the geometrical separation it is possible to ensure that application of force which has been
30 effected in the tool socket does not mechanically affect or destroy the spacer element socket, which can therefore instead be used for precise positioning of the spacer element. An undamaged spacer element socket also contributes to a fully satisfactory implantation
35 result. There is therefore no risk of the spacer socket being damaged and of the work of implantation and healing having to be repeated. The tool socket can be designed in a manner known per se, see specifications cited above, to permit simple bearing of the implant by

- 7 -

means of the screwing tool (bore machine) used. The tool can be manufactured to meet high precision demands, which is economically defensible since the tool can be used for a very large number of implant
5 fittings.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

A presently proposed embodiment of a threaded implant,
10 an arrangement and a method according to the invention will be described below with reference to the attached drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows, in a side view and partial longitudinal
15 section, an example of a threaded implant which has the tool and spacer element sockets geometrically separated,

Figure 2 shows a top view of the implant according to
20 Figure 1,

Figure 3 shows a side view of the implant according to
Figure 1, where a spacer element is arranged on the
spacer element socket,

25 Figure 4 shows a side view of the tool by means of which an implant according to Figures 1 - 3 can be screwed into a hole in the jawbone,

30 Figure 5 shows a side view and partial cutaway view of the front parts of the tool 3 where the tool exerts a support function on an implant according to Figure 1,

35 Figure 6 shows a top view of the application of the tool according to Figure 4 in the tool socket in the implant, where the tool and the implant assume a starting position,

Figure 7 shows a top view of the stage in which the tool has been turned in relation to the implant compared to Figure 6,

- 5 Figure 8 shows an enlarged view of the cooperation between the front part of the tool and the groove side walls of the tool socket, and

Figure 9 shows a view corresponding to Figure 8, but
10 with the drive force directions indicated.

DETAILED EMBODIMENT

Figures 1 and 2 show an example of a type of implant 1
15 which the present invention is intended to be used on. The implant has, inter alia, a part 2 which projects upwards above the top surface or contact surface 3 of the implant. The upwardly projecting part 2 is provided with a wrench grip 4, for example a wrench grip in the
20 form of a polygon which in the present case can be a hexagon. Arranged on the top surface and polygon there is a spacer element 5 which can be of a type known per se, see Figure 3, and will therefore not be described in detail here. Arranged inside the upwardly projecting
25 part and the implant there are internal axial grooves 6 which can alternatively have a position 6' lower down in the implant. The grooves have a height H and extend from the top surface 2a of the upwardly projecting part 2. The height of the upwardly projecting part above the
30 contact surface 3 is indicated by h. The height H exceeds the height h and the grooves thus come to extend both in the upwardly projecting part and in the implant body situated below the latter. The implant also has an external thread 1a and bone chip hollows
35 1b, 1c. In addition, there is a front conical part 1d, and the thus threaded implant, which is designed to be self-tapping, is intended to be screwed into a hole prepared in the jawbone. The type of implant is well

known as such and will therefore not be described in detail here.

5 The axial inner grooves 6 are arranged to be used as a tool socket for a tool which is described below. The polygon 4 is intended to be used as a spacer element socket for the element 5, which in a known manner comprises a spacer sleeve 7 and a locking screw 8 which cooperates with an inner bore 8' in the upper part of
10 the implant. The active part of the tool socket is situated essentially in or near the upwardly projecting part 2 and can therefore be regarded as corresponding to the said height h.

15 Figure 4 shows a tool part 9 which can be coupled to an electrically operated or otherwise operated (pneumatically, hydraulically, etc.) motor (not shown) via its upper part 9a which has an attachment for the drive motor. At its other end, the tool is provided
20 with cup-like recesses 10 for forming wing-shaped elements 11. A cone angle α is chosen at about 5°, for example 5.5°. The recesses in this case have a length of about 5 mm and the diameter is about 2.5 mm.

25 Figure 5 shows the cooperation between the tool 9 and the tool socket of the implant. By means of a cone shape 12 on the front part of the tool, a bearing function for the implant 1' is obtained via the axial grooves 6.

30 In Figure 5, the recesses of the tool are indicated by 10 and the wing-shaped elements by 11. The recesses have curved bottom parts. The number of recesses and wings in this embodiment is six. The axial grooves 6 in
35 the upwardly projecting part 2 of the implant 1 have shapes which correspond to the outer shapes of the wings. Figure 6 shows the case where the tool has been applied with the wings 11 in the grooves 6, but where it has not yet begun to be turned.

- 10 -

In Figure 7, the tool has begun to be turned so that the side surfaces 11b of the wings 11 function as drive surfaces against the groove side walls 6b in the upwardly projecting part 2 (see Figure 5). The grooves are situated in relation to each other at an angle of α' which in the present case is 60° . The side walls 11b act on the groove walls 6b as a result of the turning movement essentially in a tangential direction, which is shown by the arrows 13 in Figure 9. The side surfaces of the wing-shaped elements are, like the groove surfaces, also curved and, during the driving or the drive function, the curved surfaces bear against each other across extensive parts or areas 14a and 14b, which are shown in Figure 8. The length of the said extensive parts corresponds essentially to the groove depth of the said grooves. It will be seen from the figure that the greater part of the said surfaces is located above the upper contact surface of the implant body. Figure 9 also indicates the direction of extension 15 of the contact surface compared to the actual radial direction 16 of the drive plane.

The invention is not limited to the embodiment given above by way of example, but can be modified within the scope of the attached patent claims and the inventive concept.

PATENT CLAIMS

1. Threaded implant (1) intended to be screwed into
5 bone, preferably jawbone and, in the screwed-in
position, to support (at least) one spacer element (5),
and having a socket arrangement which can cooperate on
the one hand with a tool (9), for screwing it in, and
10 on the other hand with the spacer element (5) for
securing the latter in the applied position against a
contact surface (3) of the implant, characterized in
that the arrangement comprises two geometrically
separate sockets, of which the first socket (6, 6') can
15 cooperate with the tool (9) and the second socket (4)
permits rotational locking of the spacer element (5)
against the said contact surface (3).
2. Implant according to Patent Claim 1, characterized
in that the second socket (4) comprises a conventional
20 socket of polygonal character, for example in the form
of a hexagon socket, and is thus assigned the spacer
element (5) which can be of a known and proven
structure.
- 25 3. Implant according to Patent Claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that the first socket is internal and
the second socket is external.
4. Implant according to any of the preceding patent
30 claims, characterized in that the second socket is
arranged on a part (2) projecting upwards from the
contact surface (3) of the implant.
5. Implant according to Patent Claim 4, characterized
35 in that the first socket is located essentially
adjoining the said upwardly projecting part (2).

- 12 -

6. Implant according to any of the preceding patent claims, characterized in that the first socket is located inside the implant.

5 7. Implant according to Patent Claim 6, characterized in that the first socket extends from the top surface (2a) of the upwardly projecting part (2).

10 8. Implant according to any of the preceding patent claims, characterized in that the first socket comprises a number, preferably 4 - 6, of drive surfaces (6b) which can be acted on by the tool (9) and which are arranged with salient or essentially radial extents.

15 9. Implant according to any of the preceding patent claims, characterized in that the first socket is arranged to permit a bearing function by means of the tool.

20 10. Arrangement for a threaded implant for permitting application of screwing force by means of a screwing-in tool and for positioning and securing, in the implant's screwed-in position, at least one spacer element (5)
25 against a contact surface (3) of the implant, characterized in that the implant (1) is provided with a first socket (6, 6') which can be assigned to the tool, and with a second socket (4) geometrically separate from the first socket and used for receiving
30 and securing the spacer element (5) against the said contact surface (3).

11. Arrangement according to Patent Claim 10, characterized in that a relatively great force applied
35 by means of the tool on the first socket is prevented from mechanically affecting the second socket.

12. Arrangement according to Patent Claim 10 or 11, characterized in that the first socket is arranged to

- 13 -

meet a relatively high force application which can occur when the implant is screwed into the bone (8) despite small dimensions of the implant on account of the fact that the socket is internal.

5

13. Arrangement according to Patent Claim 10, 11 or 12, characterized in that the second socket is arranged to meet a relatively small force application which arises when the spacer element is applied.

10

14. Method for anchoring a threaded implant (1) in jawbone (8) and applying at least one spacer element (5) to a contact surface (3) of the implant in its screwed-in position, characterized in that the screwing-in is effected by means of a tool (9) which is arranged on a tool socket (6, 6') provided in the implant and in that the spacer element is applied to a spacer element socket (4) provided in the implant and separate from the tool socket.

20

15. Method according to Patent Claim 14, characterized in that the tool (9) is arranged against an internal tool socket (6, 6') and is designed to ensure a bearing function for the implant.

25

16. Method according to Patent Claim 14, characterized in that a tool (9) of star screwdriver type is arranged against an internal tool socket (6, 6') where, during screwing-in, the wing-shaped parts (11) of the tool are pressed against essentially radially extending surfaces in the tool socket.

30

17. Method according to Patent Claim 15 or 16, characterized in that conventional and well proven types of spacer elements can be applied to the spacer element socket.

35

1/3

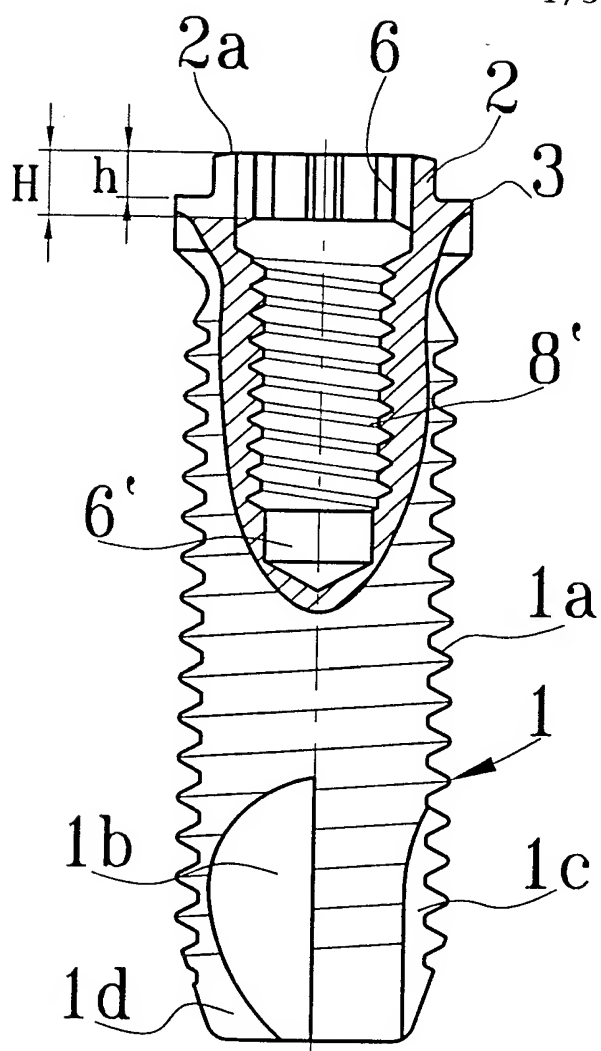


FIG 1

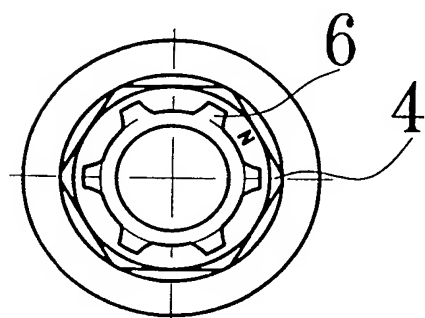


FIG 2

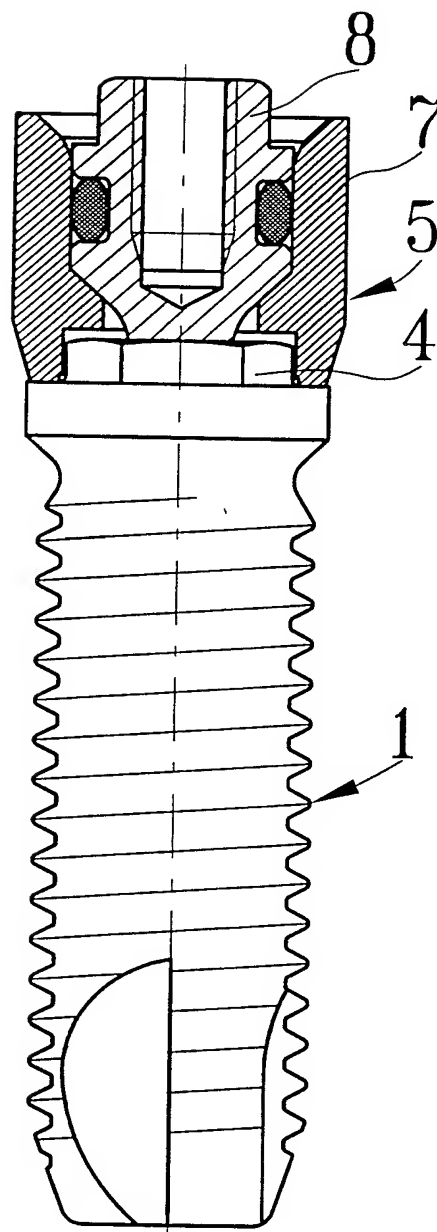


FIG 3

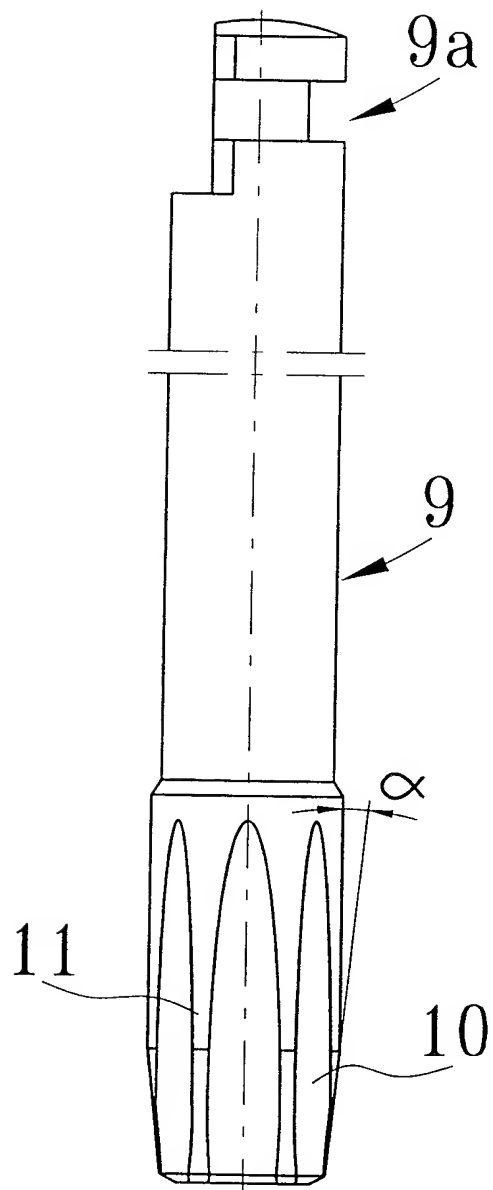


FIG 4

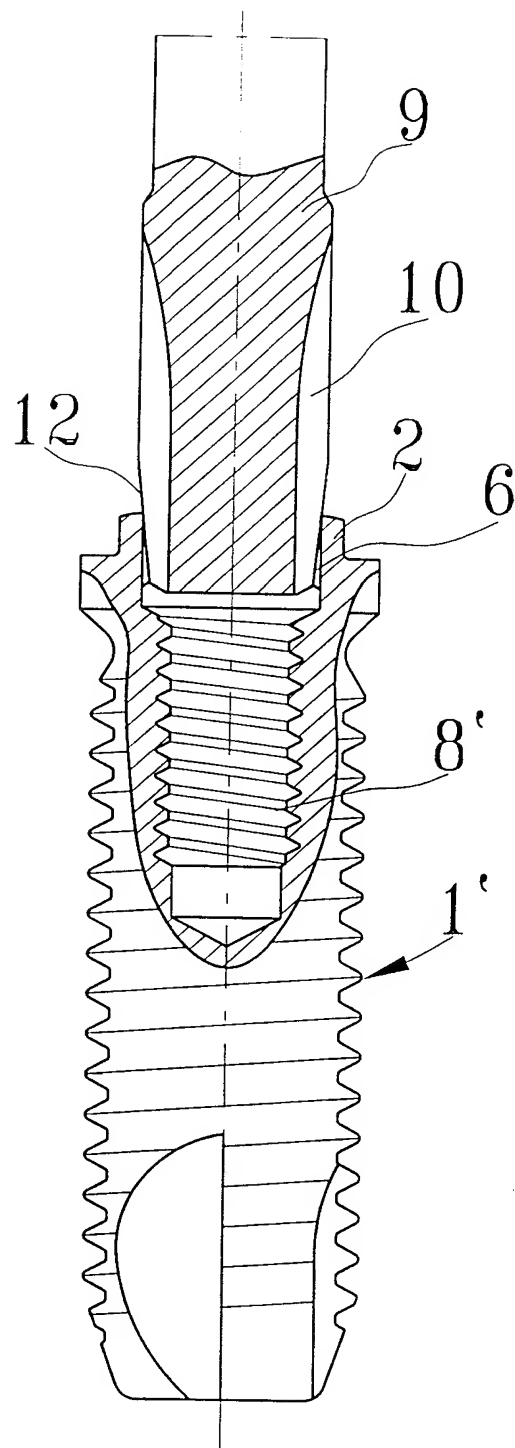
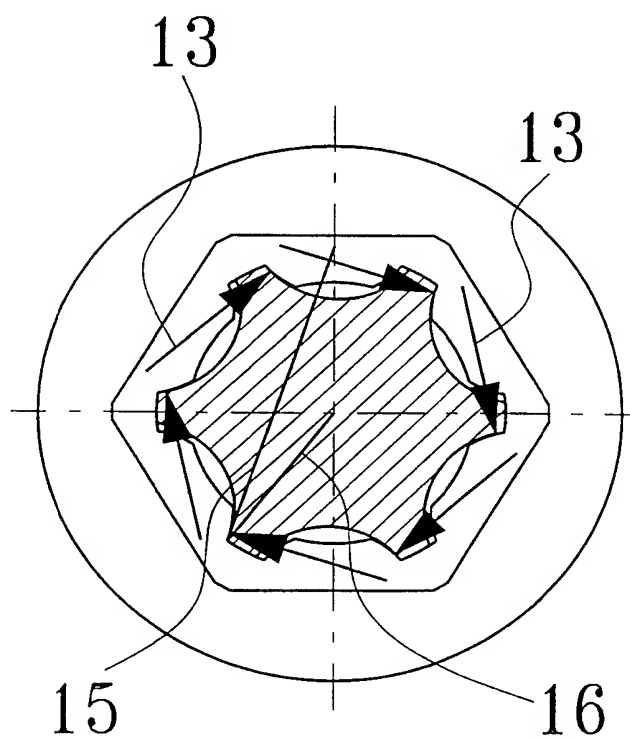
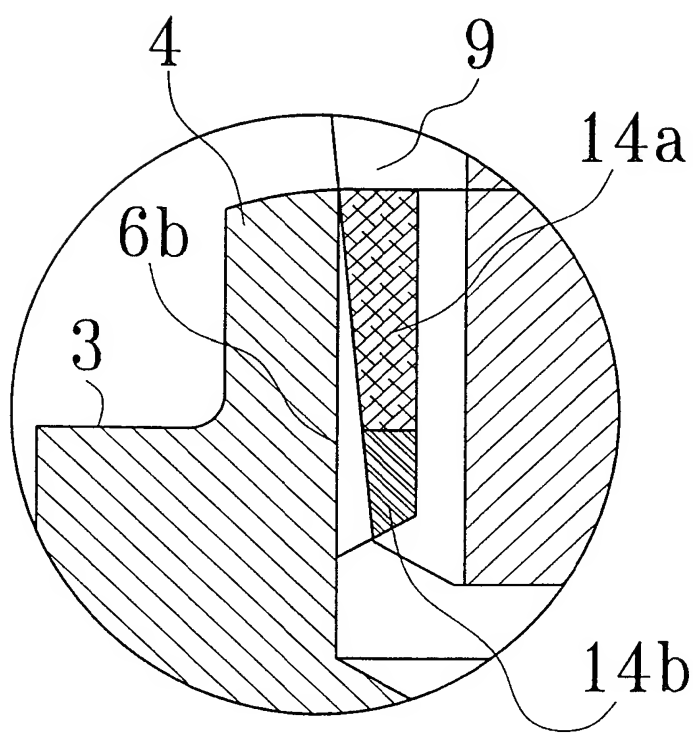
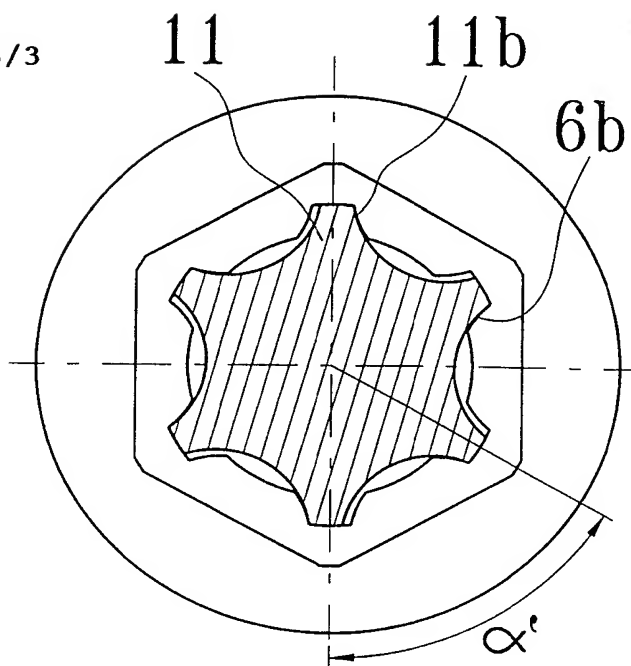
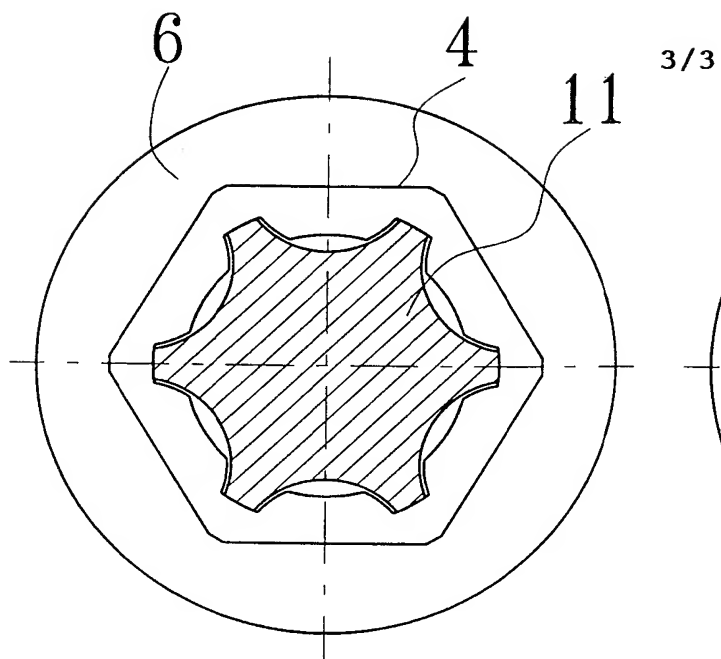


FIG 5



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 99/02036

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: A61C 8/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: A61C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| A | WO 9812982 A1 (NOBEL BIO CARE AB), 2 April 1998 (02.04.98) -- | 1-17 |
| A | WO 9831296 A1 (NOBEL BIO CARE AB), 23 July 1998 (23.07.98) -- | 1-17 |
| A | US 4960381 A (GERALD A. NIZNICK), 2 October 1990 (02.10.90) -- ----- | 1-17 |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

6 March 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

08-03-2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA.

Swedish Patent Office
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Jack Hedlund/Els
Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

02/12/99

International application No.

PCT/SE 99/02036

| Patent document cited in search report | | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
|---|---------|----|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| WO | 9812982 | A1 | 02/04/98 | AU | 3876497 A | 17/04/98 |
| | | | | EP | 0928165 A | 14/07/99 |
| | | | | SE | 507360 C | 18/05/98 |
| | | | | SE | 9603477 A | 25/03/98 |
| ----- | | | | | | |
| WO | 9831296 | A1 | 23/07/98 | AU | 1680797 A | 02/09/97 |
| | | | | AU | 5786898 A | 07/08/98 |
| | | | | SE | 9700155 A | 22/07/98 |
| ----- | | | | | | |
| US | 4960381 | A | 02/10/90 | DE | 3735378 A,C | 21/07/88 |
| | | | | GB | 2199626 A,B | 13/07/88 |
| | | | | JP | 1964681 C | 25/08/95 |
| | | | | JP | 6073529 B | 21/09/94 |
| | | | | JP | 63174648 A | 19/07/88 |
| ----- | | | | | | |